

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-25. (cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A saw blade comprising:

a body adapted for reciprocating engagement with a tool, said body including a cutting portion and a shank portion along a longitudinal axis thereof, said cutting portion having a cutting edge on a first side and a back edge on a second side opposite said first side, said shank portion having a first edge generally extending from said cutting edge, a second edge generally extending from said back edge, and a rear mounting edge generally connecting said first and second edges, a first portion of said second edge ~~immediately adjacent~~ proximate said back edge, said first portion being substantially parallel to said back edge and laterally offset from said back edge such that said first portion is positioned inward of said back edge toward said shank first edge ~~and said first portion defining a first angle~~, a stepped portion formed between said first portion and said back edge, a second portion of said second edge extending inwardly from said first portion and being angled with respect to said first portion to define an angularly disposed edge section proximate said rear mounting edge, said second portion extending substantially along said longitudinal axis and disposed at an angle relative to said first portion toward said shank first edge, and said angularly disposed edge section generally defining a reciprocating axis of said saw blade.

27. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said shank portion includes an aperture therethrough.

28. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 27, wherein said aperture includes a flat edge proximate said rear mounting edge.

29. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 28, wherein said flat edge is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section.

30. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said angle is an acute angle.

31. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 30, wherein said angle is between 2 and 6 degrees.

32. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said rear mounting edge is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 26, wherein said first edge is laterally offset from said cutting edge.

36. (Previously Presented) The saw blade of claim 35, wherein said lateral offset of said first edge is a lateral offset generally outwardly from said cutting edge.

37. (Currently Amended) A saw blade and clamping system comprising:
a support structure including a pair of lateral walls and a base portion extending between said lateral walls, a majority of each of said lateral walls being generally parallel to one another; and

a saw blade having a body adapted for reciprocating engagement with said support structure, said body including a cutting portion and a shank portion along a longitudinal axis thereof, said cutting portion having a cutting edge on a first side and a back edge on a second side opposite said first side, said shank portion having a first edge generally extending from said cutting edge, a second edge generally extending from said back edge, and a rear mounting edge generally connecting said first and second edges, said second edge ~~immediately adjacent~~ proximate said back edge, ~~said a first portion of said second edge~~ being substantially parallel to said back edge and laterally offset from said back edge such that said ~~first portion~~ first portion of said second edge is positioned inward of said back edge toward said shank first edge ~~and said first portion defining a first angle~~, a stepped portion formed between said first portion ~~of said second edge~~ and said back edge, a second portion of said second edge extending inwardly from said first portion and being angled with respect to said first portion to define an angularly disposed edge section proximate said rear mounting edge, said second portion extending substantially along said longitudinal axis and disposed at an angle relative to said first portion toward said shank first edge, and said

angularly disposed edge section adapted to engage one of said lateral walls of said support structure, said angularly disposed edge section generally defining a reciprocating axis of said saw blade.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein said base portion includes a stop thereon and said rear mounting edge of said saw blade ~~includes a recess for receiving~~ is disposed against said stop.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein said shank portion includes an aperture therethrough.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 39, wherein said aperture includes a flat edge proximate said rear mounting edge.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 40, wherein said flat edge is generally perpendicular to said angularly disposed edge section.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein said angle is an acute angle.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42, wherein said angle is between 2 and 6 degrees.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 37, wherein said first edge is laterally offset generally outwardly from said cutting edge.